



STATE OF WISCONSIN  
BOARD ON AGING AND LONG -TERM CARE

MEDIGAP HELPLINE SERVICES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**2021 Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period**

Did you know that Medicare has another Open Enrollment Period? Each year there is another opportunity, January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, for beneficiaries who wish to make a change in their Medicare Advantage Plan. If you are enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan on January 1<sup>st</sup>, an enrollment change may be made once during this time. A beneficiary may have missed the Annual Open Enrollment Period from October 15<sup>th</sup> through December 7<sup>th</sup> or they may be unsatisfied with their current Medicare Advantage Plan and wish to enroll into another plan.

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment options are as follows:

- May switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan with or without Prescription Drug coverage (even if you did not have a Prescription Drug plan prior).
- Disenroll from the Medicare Advantage Plan and return to Original Medicare Parts A & B and obtain a special enrollment to enroll into a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan. *Caution: if returning to Original Medicare Parts A & B, there may be no guarantee issue protections to purchase a Medicare Supplemental Policy (Medigap). There will be health questions, so you can be denied coverage.*

To enroll into a new Medicare Advantage plan, contact the insurance company directly, contact 1-800-Medicare, or enroll on-line. The new coverage will begin on the first day of the following month. The Medicare Plan Finder Tool is located at [www.Medicare.Gov](http://www.Medicare.Gov), the official US government website for Medicare. This tool is helpful in comparing Medicare Advantage Plans and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans.

If further assistance is needed, the Medigap Helpline Services, part of the SHIP (State Health Insurance Program) in Wisconsin, is available to assist in reviewing insurance options during the Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period and throughout the year. Feel free to contact the Medigap Helpline toll-free at 1-800-242-1060.

*Mary Jane Ripp, Medigap Helpline Counselor*

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